



# Stephens City Newsletter

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 1

JANUARY AND FEBRUARY 2008

## SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- **Water and Sewer Billing**– Page 1
- **Decals**– Page 2
- **Business Licenses** – Page 2
- **Snow Removal** - Page 2
- **Christmas Tree Pick-up** - Page 2

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

<b>From the Mayors Office</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Newtown Heritage Festival</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>General News and Notes</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Garden Club</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Town Manager's Minute</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>The Planner's Corner</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Town Calendar</b>	<b>4</b>

*Stephens City Newsletter* is published by the Town Government of Stephens City for its citizens, to inform, to apprise, and to clarify the issues and undertakings before the Town Government. Citizen feedback is encouraged. Contact the Town Office at 1033 Locust Street weekdays between the hours of 8:30a.m. and 5:00 p.m. or by mail: P.O. Box 250, Stephens City, VA 22655

**Phone:** 869-3087 **Fax:** 869-6166 **Police:** 868-1012 **Website:** [www.stephenscity.vi.virginia.gov](http://www.stephenscity.vi.virginia.gov)

## From the Mayors Office

Happy New Year! I am always excited about beginning a new year however I am especially excited about this new year because it really is something special in the life of the Town.

I am certain most of you have already heard of the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the Town and some of you have taken part in planning for events and activities to commemorate this "Birthday" October 12, 2008. You will learn of some of the plans in other articles in this newsletter. Space probably

will not permit detailing the plans in this letter however; announcements and advertisements for each activity will be forthcoming through the year.



**Looking from McLeods Hill North into Stephens City (1885)**

If you have not taken part in the planning so far

please plan to participate or attend the events as they unfold through the year. This is a wonderful opportunity for us to come together as a community and to gain an appreciation of this community; to learn how those before us lived, how they made their living, the hardships they endured and how they may have contributed to the quality of life we enjoy today.

I am looking forward to this year and the many blessings it will bring.

*Mayor Ray Ewing*

## Water and Sewer Billing

Water and sewer bills for the bi-monthly billing ending **December 31, 2007** will be due and payable on **February 4, 2008**.

After **February 4, 2008** a **10% penalty** will be added. On **February 10, 2008** service may be

discontinued for delinquency, a reconnect fee of **\$25** plus the full amount of the bill must be paid before service can be restored.

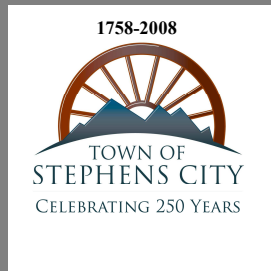
**Just a reminder that for your convenience a night drop is available at the Town Office for dropping off check or**

**money order payments.**

**Please do not put cash in the drop box.**

**COMING SOON!**

**Residents will be able to pay with a Visa or MasterCard as well as pay ONLINE at the Town's new website!**



This Year's Town Decal

*"Be Sure to get  
your new Town  
Decal by February  
15, 2008 to avoid  
a late fee"*

## NEWTOWN HERITAGE FESTIVAL

Be sure to pickup your 2008 calendars available at the Town Office, Clem's Garage, Lantz's Pharmacy & The Flower Center; The cost \$6.00. Also available are past commemoratives. There will be more to tell you soon about the upcoming 2008 commemorative!

## Town Decals

Decals will go on sale January 2, 2008 for \$25.00 until February 15, 2008. After February 15, 2008 they will be \$30.00. Any vehicle garaged/ parked within the Town limits of Stephens City is required to display a Town Decal.

### Personal Property Tax must be paid before decals will be issued.

Vehicle identification number, social security numbers of owner, make, model and license plate number are needed to complete decal registration.

If you currently have a Town decal you will be receiving a renewal letter.

**If you have received a decal from Frederick County, please return it or you will be billed for two!**

## Business Licenses

Business licenses will go on sale January 2, 2008 through March 1, 2008. The cost of the business license is based on gross receipts. **Please be sure to have your gross receipts** available when applying for your license. If you have any ques-

tions concerning this matter, please call our office at 869-3087. Renewal forms will be mailed to existing license holders. Business and equipment taxes must be paid before licenses are renewed.

## Snow Removal

Property owners or occupants must clear the sidewalks of snow in front of their property. This must be done

within 6 hours after the snow has ceased to fall or no later than noon the next day if snowfall stops overnight.



## Garden Club

**WE NEED YOU HELP!** The Stephens City Garden Club is looking for your ideas and your participation in our Town's 250<sup>th</sup> birthday party! We are dedicating the year 2008 to the celebration of our Town's rich history. Did you know that Stephens City is the second oldest town in Shenandoah Valley? Virginia General Assembly approved the Town's Charter on October 12, 1758. The town was initially named Stephensburgh after Town resident Lewis Stephens. Mayor Ewing, along with Town Council, has been working hard to bring the Town's various resources together in order to provide as many special events as possible during the course of this coming anniversary year. Each citizen becomes a part of those valuable resources. The garden club is asking each of you to help us in an effort to "spruce up" our Main Street. Main Street will be the setting for many of our commemorative activities during 2008. We expect some visiting dignitaries and the press to be present for some of these events and of course, we want to look our best! Specifically, the garden club is planning to solicit help from local businesses so that we can purchase planters to line Main Street. The plants will hold flowers and flags and will become a permanent and pretty addition to the Town's appearance. The Garden Club would love to have your ideas and help in planning this project. I promise that we will have fun! Please contact me at: Carolyn Skaritz, 540-869-6966, or P.O. Box 57, Stephens City, VA 22655 or skaritza@comcast.net. I can't wait to hear from you!

## General News and Notes

### FROZEN WATER LINES AND METERS

All residences and buildings with water lines should have a shut off valve installed, however, if you do not have a working shut off valve and experience a frozen water

meter or broken water line after the Town Office has closed or on weekends, please contact the Stephens City Police Department at 868-1012 or the Frederick County Sheriff's Department at 662-6162 and Stephens City personnel will be notified.

### CHRISTMAS TREE PICKUP

Please note that Christmas Trees will be picked up curbside on January 2nd and January 9th.



# Town Manager's Minute

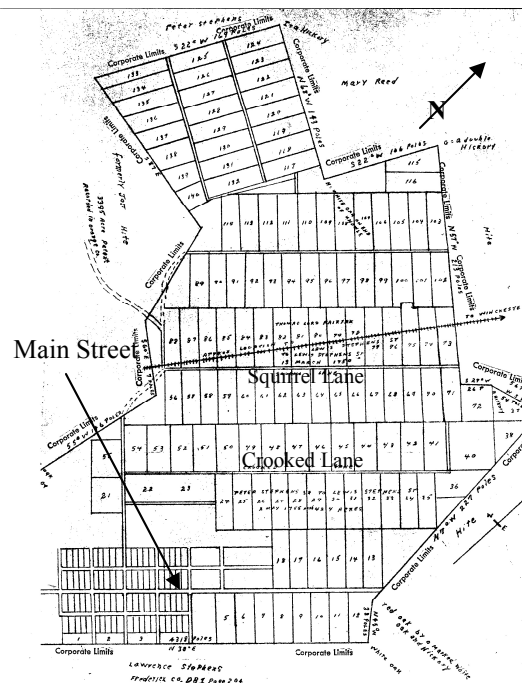
## How Did Stephentown Become Newtown

The first lots that were sold by Lewis Stephens in the newly created village of Stephentown were the lots near the south end of the town or near the intersection with the Valley Pike and the road leading to White Post (east) and to Marlboro (west) where Lewis Stephens had built his residence. The lots on the southern boundary were closer to the water source or "town spring" at Stephens Run. Shortly thereafter, log cabins were erected. Many of these early homes and shops still exist today but have been extended and modified over time.

The town grew fast and around the time of the Revolution, most of the inner lots had been sold and Lewis Stephens, who lived until 1802, extended the sale of lots north of

Locust Street. This became known as the new part of town and then, as was common nomenclature of the time, "Newtown" and as time passed Stephentown was dropped and Newtown became the widely used name during the 19<sup>th</sup> Century. In Daniel Boone's journal of a trip through the Shenandoah Valley to Pennsylvania in 1795 he mentions "Newtown" as being 8 miles from Winchester, indicating that term was already predominantly being used. For more information about the early days of Stephens City check out the Newtown History Center Website at: [www.newtownhistorycenter.org](http://www.newtownhistorycenter.org).

A version of the Town Charter map is included which shows both the inner lots and outer lots created by Lewis Stephens as the beginnings of the town.



*"...this year of celebration of History and Heritage we are also venturing out into new directions with regard to the future..."*

## The Planner's Corner

### The Town's New Website...

Typically I like to share a brief article with you about "hot topics" in the Planning World, but in this newsletter I would like to share with you all about another project we have been working on here within the Town.

You heard it here first. The Town of Stephens City has a new website and we want you to visit it. It seems fitting that in this year of celebration of our Town History and Heritage we are also venturing out into new directions with regard to the future of the Town. The Town has had a website previously

through a partnership with Lord Fairfax Community College class but the website was short lived and did not remain on the World Wide Web. This website is completely different. The website is designed to be a useful tool that will not remain "stagnant". There will be at the minimum weekly changes to keep citizens in tune with the pulse of the Town operations. The site features some very unique applications for a small town. Residents will be able to pay bills online, access interactive mapping of Town, and will be able to contact Town officials and staff directly from the website. Furthermore, the web-

site is informative and allows residents, business owners, developers and anyone else needing information about the Town's procedures and policies.

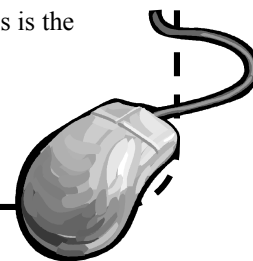
Please take an opportunity to visit the new website and let us know what you think...

[www.stephenscity.vi.virginia.gov](http://www.stephenscity.vi.virginia.gov)

Stephens City, now just a click away!

Till the next newsletter, this is the Planner's Corner.

Brian Henshaw  
Town Planner




# Town Calendar of Events

## JANUARY



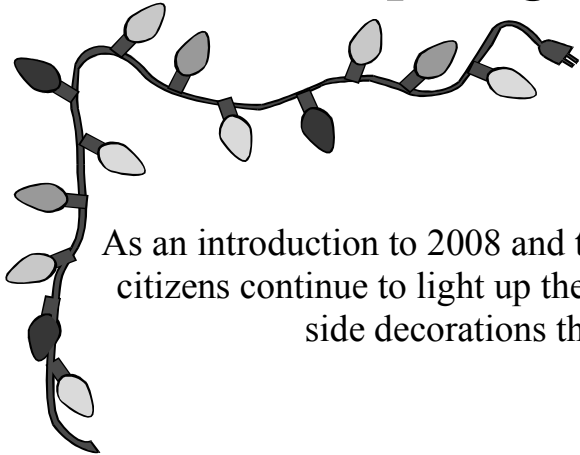
January 1	Happy New Year
January 2	Christmas Tree Pickup
January 3	Dr. Peter B. Stickley Meeting at 7:30p.m.
January 8	Christmas Tree Pickup <b>Town Council Meeting at 7:30pm.</b>
January 14	Personnel Meeting at 7:30pm
January 15	HPC meeting at 7:30p.m.
January 16	Newtown Heritage Festival at 7:30p.m.
January 17	Public Works Meeting at 4:30p.m. Water/ Sewer Meeting at 5:00p.m.
January 24	Public Safety Meeting at 7:30p.m.
January 29	<b>Planning Commission at 7:30p.m.</b> <b>Public Hearing: West Wynd Master Plan</b>
January 31	Finance at 5:00p.m.

## FEBRUARY

February 1	Dr. Peter B. Stickley Meeting at 7:30p.m.
February 3	<b>Water/ Sewer Bills Due without penalty</b>
February 5	Penalties added to Water/Sewer Bills
February 6	<b>Town Council Meeting at 7:30p.m.</b>
February 12	Personnel Meeting at 7:30pm Water/ Sewer Shut off Date
February 14	Happy Valentines Day! 
February 15	Public Works Meeting at 4:30p.m. Water/ Sewer Meeting at 5:00p.m.
February 19	President's Day
February 20	HPC meeting at 7:30p.m.
February 21	Newtown Heritage Festival at 7:30p.m.
February 22	Public Safety Meeting at 7:30p.m.
February 27	<b>Planning Commission at 7:30p.m.</b>
February 28	Finance at 5:00p.m.

We're on the web!  
[www.stephenscity.vi.virginia.gov](http://www.stephenscity.vi.virginia.gov)

## The 250th Spotlight!



### 250<sup>th</sup> Lights

As an introduction to 2008 and the town's 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary year, we are asking that citizens continue to light up the town through January with window lights and outside decorations that were displayed this Holiday Season.

Events are being planned by both the Newtown Heritage Festival Committee and the 250<sup>th</sup> Committee through the year. On Wednesday, January 30, 2008 at 7:00pm a lecture on "Stephens City's First 100 Years", will be presented by Byron Smith of the Newtown History Center at the Town Office. The public is encouraged to attend.

Come learn about your Town's Heritage!

